

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD NOVEMBER 2016

Echoes of “Armistice Day” 1918

For many it's a day of very mixed feelings, today 13th November. “Remembrance Sunday” is a much bigger celebration in the UK, rather like our ANZAC Day.

There are processions and wreath laying, with the royal family usually in full attendance. Our ex-pats in the congregation may feel a tug at their hearts.

While we rejoice in the lengthening days of summer, we note with sadness the ill health of several of our St Francis family. Do hold them in your prayers (see back page). It is a source of great comfort to them and their families.

The last few weeks have been full of interest. Our Blessing of the Pets was one of the best yet, with 12 dogs and one cat, all very well behaved! Some splendid publicity in a variety of places led to this remarkable response, so thanks to all concerned.

All Saints' Day was another special day on which we particularly remembered those people in our own lives who had significant influence. Their names were collected in the baptismal bowl and offered at the altar.

We look back to our recent preaching workshop, led by Anne. Together we all read word

for word through Matthew's gospel, a salutary experience for us who normally experience Matthew in selected chunks.

Another very inspiring experience was the recent study afternoon “How to read the Bible for all its worth”, led by David.

Neil had originally planned to spread this over two meetings, but in the space of one we did remarkable things.

David was an admirable tutor as we worked through different aspects of Bible study, a thoroughly fascinating exploration.

If you'd like a copy of the printed handout, which you can work through on your own, do see David or Neil.

No further studies are planned for 2016, but we'll be back in action next year.

It's good to report a successful stewardship campaign! We had 20 responses to the questionnaire, with offers of help in the tick boxes. In addition several people went on to direct credit or envelope giving, and a number of parishioners increased their giving. All of this is a big help financially. Thank you everyone!

Diary notes

November

27 Advent

27 3pm Eucharist

Dec

3 “Xmas Story”

18 Commissioning

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A special welcome to our visitors today

Enabler Anne has final message as the year moves to an end

Dear All,
It has been a wonderful year being with you all again. Last Sunday we had a calling for an Administrator, Pastoral Care Coordinator and another priest.

The process is those who have verbally said yes to me, now get a letter from the Bishop asking them to accept the position.

They then respond to it and I can then announce the result. There will be a Commissioning Service, which will be on Sunday 18th December at the 9.30am service. Please keep praying for your Ministry Support Team and Council.

As most of you know I will not be your Enabler next year; you should know in the next few weeks who your next person is.

“...is

still

doing

so...”



As we come up to the beginning of the next Liturgical Year we come to the time of waiting that is Advent. A time of waiting for the birth of the Christ Child who turned the world upside down and is still doing so.

As we wait, some writing telling of Mary's response to her time of waiting – for me, I find that call to this time of waiting is one to prepare for the time of celebration – the birth of the Christ Child. May you be truly blessed in this wonderful time of year.

Anne Moody

Magnificat of Waiting for the Fullness of Time Luke 1:56

My soul reflects quietly on your fullness, and my spirit grows stronger in the hope of your promise,

God my redeemer, because you have filled me with the knowing that you are alive within me.

Yes, day by day through the course of time my awareness of the call to blessed fulfilment increases for you have done great things in me.

Holy is this time, and patience is your gift to all who nurture the seed of your love.

You have changed my life; I was so confident in my unknowing.

You have deflected my fervent thrust toward iron-clad goals, and spread before me your vision of fragile simplicity.

My longing to be a healing and reconciling person to your people is affirmed within the daily comings and goings of my life; my illusions of my own wholeness and mercifully revealed.

You are here now in this seeming emptiness of waiting, remembering your intent,... according to the promise made in the beginning of time ... remembering your intent to reach through the work of my life that your fullness may be known now, in our time.

On Saturday 26th Nov we are having another Working Bee in the garden. The first one in Oct was most successful but we weren't able to complete the job, so we've decided to have another go now to get it all done before Christmas. As before, bring suitable garden tools; we hope for a dry day this time. John Hyatt

“Telling the Christmas Story” begins to take shape for 3rd Dec

We're well on the way in preparing for a striking event in St Francis on Saturday 3rd December. It's "Telling the Christmas story."

A number of different tables or "stations" will be set up around the sides of the church, each illustrating different stages in the story.



For example, just inside the door is the first station, the Annunciation. Then follow the Journey to Bethlehem, the Birth, the Shepherds, and so on.

The aim is to have illustrations and activities at each stopping place that will engage the travellers. There will be music and film too, with a barbeque to round it off.

Publicity is planned for the village and various local centres, so that

as many people as possible, especially the young, come to know about the event.

The stations will be left in place for Sunday 4th December, but not intruding on the worship space. Any children present may wish to walk around and take in the various illustrations of the Christmas story.

Margaret has been leading a team in the preparations and a number of the congregation are involved in a variety of ways.

Now it's up to us to spread the word. Saturday 3rd December is the occasion too of the lighting up of the village, the "Festival of Light" so there will quite a few people about.

Our event is timed for 11am to 4pm, so we hope a number of folk will make the trip down to St Francis.

Afternoon Eucharist every last Sunday. Next— 3pm, 27th Nov

“...up
to
us...”

Interesting happenings at St Francis

St Francis will again make its contribution to the Festival of Light by illuminating our church.

Thanks to Aaron, we have the necessary strings of lights, and he has again agreed to do the hanging: he has the required stature.

In addition we are planning to have an illuminated Christmas scene in the windows behind the altar, possibly the end three panes.

Susan has offered to make this: thank you so much, Susan.

Also in December we will be setting up a "prayer tree," and "Adopt a Family". See p4.

Advent Sunday: 27th November: a special season and a special service, including lighting of the Advent candle.

11.15am Healing service: usually first Sunday even months. But 4th December may not be suitable with Christmas Story stations in place. We'll wait and see.

LSM central mini conference held yesterday. More later

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Readings for November

13th Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thess 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
20th Jer 23:1-6; Col 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
27th Advent: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44

December

4th Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12
11th Readings and Carols

Funeral Resource booklet

This is a very handy and easy to complete booklet to leave so your family and friends know your wishes. Do take one home and fill it in, and leave it somewhere for them.

Remember appropriate prayer is always available at the altar rails after the service.

Going to the car boot sale: Can anyone join Christine with their car also selling some items at the Henderson car boot sale? It's a fun morning but an early 6.30am start! Phone 817 1419

News of important events near and far

Adopt a Family:

Christian Love Link via Helen Philip has identified four families in need. The Christmas boxes will be out at the back of the church on the 20th November.

This is your opportunity to help those in our immediate area and to buy gifts (new) or donate money or non perishable Christmas food items.

Last year with donations we were able to buy several Lynmall gift vouchers which went to the adults and teenagers. And the families were overwhelmed on receipt of their Christmas "box".

This year the families comprise:

- 1 Mum, 20 year old male, 17 yr male, 7 yr old boy.
2. Married couple, 11 yr male, 7 yr boy.
3. Mum, 6 year boy, 5 year girl
4. Two adults, 5 year girl

This joyous campaign is led by Christine and the Pastoral team with lots of help from the Friendship group and of course YOU.

Council Corner:

The garage clean up went very well. The garage is now back to a neat and tidy state. We filled the bin; some of you took advantage of the opportunity to get rid of a few items, and your

donation helped pay for the bin. So thank you to all helpers.

Mini Market: Due to too many demands on time, this has been cancelled. Christine will try to take some of the items to the Henderson Saturday car boot sale before Christmas.

We remember all who are sick at this time: "I am not alone because the Father is with me" (John 16:32)

Your prayers, please, for Ank and Hans van den Brink, Bob and Val Aitken, Herman and Moira Tecklenberg, Dorothy Ashbolt, Isobel Sutherland, Joan Glasse

An update as we go to print: Hans is currently at West Harbour Gardens Care Home, Ank is at home but unable to drive for a while. Bob is back in hospital. Herman is recovering well, and so is Dorothy.

On Sunday 11th December 10am we again plan readings and carols, similar to last year, with a mixture of Bible and secular readings, plus familiar carols. The readings will be done by members of the community from a variety of organisations and societies. Do invite friends and neighbours to this community event.

